

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN: MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 1884.

The National Republican

Daily (except Sunday) and Weekly.

BY THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMPANY.

The DAILY is delivered to subscribers by carrier at Twelve Cents a week, or Fifty Cents a month, by mail, postage prepaid, one year..... \$6.00
Three months..... \$3.00
One month..... \$1.50

Payable invariably in advance.

An Editor's Opinions.

Editor McClure, tired of taking opinions about Cleveland at second hand, has gone on a pilgrimage to Albany to spy out the land for himself. The result of his observations, as given to the public through the medium of the Philadelphia *Times*, seems to be that he was impressed to the point of enthusiasm in favor of the incoming president. He gives a glowing account of the good things he confidently argues the country may expect from Cleveland's administration. Briefly summarized, they are as follows:

A business administration, with business methods strictly enforced in all departments.

Tariff revision in the interest of neither tariff monopolists nor free trade dreamers, but for the benefit of the legitimate and substantial business interests of the country.

A secretary of the treasury whose name will be a substantial pledge for the revival of business.

Every possible measure to cheapen the necessities of life to home labor. Enlarged foreign markets for the products of our industries. The enforcement of civil service reforms until officials regard their positions as public trusts paramount to party and personal considerations. The appointment of men but reputable men to office to the exclusion and discrediting of disreputable professional politicians and office-holders. These are mighty promises, but that they embrace all of Editor McClure's rosy expectations, but they are the most important, and it may be confessed that if they are carried out to complete accomplishment a respectable proportion of the people will have their faith in the millennium definitely enlarged.

PROPERTY-OWNERS in the northwestern section of the city are complaining that the commissioners have slighted them in the matter of improvements. Hitherto the eastern and southern sections have complained that the northwestern section has had almost a monopoly of street improvements.

GENERAL gloom, depression in business and manufacturing circles, fears of impending war, and widespread suffering among the poor are prominent conditions just now in all the nations of Europe. Affairs are not all they should be on this side of the water, but in comparison our condition is fortunate indeed.

SARAH BERNHARDT, whose fortunes have seemed to be on the wane for some time, has evidently again captured her old place in Parisian favor through her splendid impersonation of "Theodora." The wayward actress has evidently found in the character of the Byzantine Empress, as depicted by Sardon, a creation that she is destined to make famous.

The ten thousand visitors to the New Orleans exposition Saturday were thrown into considerable excitement through a strike of the street car drivers occurring when the grounds were the most crowded. The exposition authorities were able to provide transportation to meet the emergency for the day, but it is evident that if the strike continues for any length of time it must result in much inconvenience to visitors, and some loss to the exposition.

approves the Nicaragua canal treaty, and desires that it will be the first great step in the direction of our ultimate acquisition of the territory south of us down to the isthmus of Panama. Our neighbor, the *Post*, objects seriously to this view of the treaty and wants it to be promptly rejected, "unless it can be shown that the *Pioneyne's* construction of the treaty is false and chimerical." Now, we do not believe that there is my good ground for the view of the effect of the treaty taken by the *Pioneyne*, and still less do we think the *Post's* notion, that the treaty should be rejected unless some body is at pains to deny the soundness of the *Pioneyne's* fanciful prophecies, is well grounded. What the *Pioneyne* or any other newspaper may chance to say will possibly be an outgrowth of the treaty in the distant future should cut no figure in determining its ratification or rejection. The action of the senate should be based upon its plain immediate intent. The treaty looks only to the construction of a canal across the territory of Nicaragua which will be under American control, but freely open to the commerce of the world. Everything in the way of detail in the treaty is tributary to this one central purpose. There is no suggestion of an acquisition of foreign territory other than such as Nicaragua readily concedes to be proper and necessary to the construction and maintenance of the canal. It is not fair to the treaty to bring in outside issues to confuse its consideration, nor is it necessary, for in itself it deals with interests and obligations affording abundant food for extended discussion.

Secretary Chandler's Order.

The order issued by Secretary Chandler, because of the failure of congress to provide funds for the navy department, is the same in effect as that issued by Secretary McCrary in 1877, when congress adjourned without making provision for the support of the war department. In 1877 the two houses were at loggerheads over the army appropriation bill, the democrats desiring a reduction of the force and demanding the withdrawal of troops from the southern states, and the republicans opposing both propositions. The forty-fourth congress adjourned without passing the army appropriation bill.

Three distinct propositions are laid down by Secretary Chandler in the order. First, all officers and seamen are under contract with the government, and the performance on their part of their duties obligates the government to pay them, and they have a valid claim for their salaries against the United States, which they can enforce in the courts of claims.

Second, necessary contracts and purchases for clothing, subsistence, forage, fuel, quarters, and transportation come within the exception of that statute which forbids departments to enter into contracts in excess of or in anticipation of appropriations. Such contracts and purchases will be duly made and vouchers issued therefor, but the holders are informed that payments will depend upon future appropriations by congress for that purpose.

The third proposition is that which relates to the civilian employees of the department, and may be stated in this way: When congress fails or refuses to make appropriations for the support of the government it is the duty of the executive branch to maintain it in running order as long as possible by accepting the services of employees whose patriotism leads them to volunteer those services and trust to congress to make provision for their payment. The department in this

case enters into no agreement to pay, and there is no liability against the government. But it is the duty as well as the right of the department to accept gratuitous service that the government may continue to exist. All these propositions are clearly set forth by the secretary in his order, and work at the navy department will be continued in accordance with its provisions.

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AMUSEMENTS.

The *Hanlon*, those pieces of pantomime which begin their season of merrymaking at Ford's Opera house this evening, "Le Voyage en Egypte," has evidently improved since it was last seen here.

"Young Mrs. Wintrop" will be presented at the National theater this evening, through the week, by a company which embraces several members of the original Madison Square cast, including Ada Dyas, John Clark, May Roberts, and Theo. Whiffen.

"Brooks & Dickson's" company will form "the Ranks" at Albaugh's Grand Opera house this evening and continue their evolutions during the week. The play is wholesome and interesting, and the comedy is very elaborate.

The *Playhouse* in *Circus*.

A private letter from a member of the Smithsonian institution located in Corcoran throws some light on the cause of the present revolution in that country.

The *Coronians* have been so ground down by the general opposition of the opposition that the official class that they have organized will make or break more than just enough for their own support or very immediate needs. A few days ago, however, they have a better government than the new president may solve is whether a democratic national administration can make the nation democratic by deserving the considerate approval of the people. If he shall be successful, the measure of success will repeat the history of Monroe in the unsuccessful, but gallant and valiant democratic movement for another quarter of a century, if not forever.

ADJUSTED FOR DAILY USE.

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They Wanted a Change.

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Playing It Alone.

It seems that Mr. Cleveland intends to manage his own affairs in his own manner, and that he is not looking around much for advice from outside statesmen.—*New York Sun*.

We Don't Object.

Washington is now the "dog" on which new theatrical plays are tried.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

St. Paul's church Sabbath school celebrated its Christmas festival last night. The church was crowded by the scholars and their friends. The entertainment and the problem the new president was highly creditable to the children, teachers, pastor, and church. The programme included Bible selections, hymns, recitations, remarks by the pastor, and superintendent, and devotional exercises.

A pleasant meeting took place Saturday night at the residence of Col. John H. Harmon, 907 Twenty-third street northwest, the high contracting party being J. Edward Gore, of the *Post*, who is reported to be a member of the banking house, T. D. Ryan & Bishop & Co., and Miss Kate Chamberlain, of Beloit, Wis. The entertainment was performed by the *Albany Singers*, and after a reception, to which only intimate friends were invited, Mr. and Mrs. Gore left on the late train for New York, where they will spend a month.

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